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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. *FLD*
3

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 2 Feb. 1950

SUBJECT Activities of Soviets in Tsingtao

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. In January 1950 there were still about four hundred Soviet citizens, most of whom were White Russians prior to the past few years, in Tsingtao. Approximately thirty percent of this group are destitute and depend on a soup kitchen which has been established at the Soviet Club for their subsistence. The remainder, for the most part, are barely able to make a living. There has been a gradual exodus of Tsingtao Soviets to Harbin in response to offers of, or in the hope of obtaining, employment in the mines or on the railway.*
2. There were, in January 1950, no Soviets directly from the USSR in Tsingtao. At the time of the celebration of the October Revolution, two so-called Soviet "generals" were in Tsingtao for about ten days, apparently as guests of the Military Control Commission. They lived in a private residence under heavy military guard. Although they were at the Soviet Club on at least two occasions, they were not friendly to the local Soviet citizens. The Tsingtao Soviets who met and talked with them did not learn their full names. When Lelchitsky and a committee invited them to a banquet at the Soviet Club, the visiting officers neither attended the banquet nor sent their apologies.** The Soviet visitors were said to be military technicians investigating harbor and airfield facilities and railways.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R004300010003-4

Auth: [REDACTED]

Date: JUN 1972

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